



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

*Note: A copy of the federal indictment, in PDF format, is available
to download from the district's Web site at
www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow*

JACKSON COUNTY OFFICIAL INDICTED FOR OBSTRUCTION OF JUSTICE, FALSE DECLARATION TO GRAND JURY

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Jackson County, Mo., official was indicted by a federal grand jury today for obstruction of justice and making a false declaration to a federal grand jury.

William F. "Bill" Waris, 60, of Kansas City, Mo., was charged in a two-count indictment returned by a federal grand jury in Kansas City. **Waris**, a former county executive, is a lobbyist for Jackson County.

Count One of the federal indictment alleges that **Waris** provided false testimony before the grand jury on April 21, 2004.

According to the indictment, **Waris** testified in a grand jury investigation into whether an official with the Jackson County government offered Catherine Nugent a \$12,000 personal services contract to conduct fund raising for the Fort Osage Historical Society in exchange for her husband, Daniel Nugent, voluntarily withdrawing from consideration his appointment to the Jackson County Sports Authority. It was material to the investigation, the indictment says, to determine whether this official offered the contract to Catherine Nugent as an inducement for Daniel Nugent to withdraw.

Waris, the indictment alleges, testified falsely that he did not speak with Catherine Nugent about the contract prior to that offer from the Jackson County government official. **Waris** also testified falsely that this county official did not indicate that the fund-raising offer was

contingent upon Daniel Nugent withdrawing, the indictment alleges.

That testimony before the grand jury was false, the indictment alleges, because **Waris** had spoken with Catherine Nugent concerning the Fort Osage Historical Society fund-raising position prior to the offer from the Jackson County government official. During that offer in October 2003, the indictment alleges, the Jackson County government official indicated that the offer to Catherine Nugent to conduct fund raising for the Fort Osage Historical Society was contingent upon Daniel Nugent removing himself from consideration from appointment to the Jackson County Sports Authority.

Count Two of the federal indictment alleges that **Waris** offered false testimony in an effort to obstruct the due administration of justice.

Graves cautioned that the charges contained in the indictment are simply accusations, and not evidence of guilt. Evidence supporting the charges must be presented to a federal trial jury, whose duty is to determine guilt or innocence.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney William L. Meiners. It was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at
www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow